

It is also true that there is literally—this is something I know, not something I believe, something I know and something that as President I am in a position to know—there is no nation in the world today as well-positioned as the United States to move into the next century, none—no country that has our combination of entrepreneurial skills, our research and technology base, our outward-looking contacts with the rest of the world, our work ethic, and our diversity. Nobody has got all of that in any other country.

And what we have to do is, as I have said until I'm blue in the face, build a bridge to the future that gives opportunity to everybody, expects responsibility from everybody, and then says, if you are willing to share our values and play by the rules, we don't care anything else about you. You don't have to tell us anything else. We don't care about what your race is, whether you're a man or woman, whether you're old or young, whether you've got a disability. We don't care. If you're willing to do your best and be a part of this, our bridge is going to be big enough for you to go across, because we'll all be better off if you're better off. And we're going to have an American community. And my wife is right: It does take a village. And we are going to do it together.

Now, what I want to ask you is, I want to ask you to forget about the polls. There's a lot of elections where they could have a bonfire on election night burning the polls that turned out to be wrong. If all the polls had been right, Lawton wouldn't be Governor. [Laughter] And a poll is a picture of a horse race that's not over. That's all it is. But the people now are voting their hopes, not their fears. The people are now voting the facts, the evidence, the ideas, not the insults, the innuendoes, the assaults. That's what they're doing.

We really have succeeded in replacing the politics of blame in Washington with the politics of "What are we going to do about it?" and that's good. But we've got 60 days to go. And if you want 4 more years, and if you want us to go into the 21st century with the American dream alive for everybody, and if you're willing to rear back and fight, then remember this: You cannot have 4 more years without 60 more days.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union East Building at Gulf Coast Community College. In his remarks, he referred to area businessman Joseph Chapman III and his mother, Gladys, Bay County supervisor of elections. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **Statement on the Tentative Agreement Between the International Association of Machinists and McDonnell Douglas** *September 6, 1996*

I am pleased that the International Association of Machinists and McDonnell Douglas have reached a tentative agreement and congratulate both parties for working around the clock to settle their differences at the bargaining table. McDonnell Douglas workers are among the best defense workers in the world and I am hopeful that the 6,700 workers that have been on strike will be back at their jobs soon. I also commend Representative Gephardt for initiating this round of talks and for keeping both sides at the table.

When labor and management work together to resolve their differences, the company and the workers benefit. In this case, all Americans will benefit from having an experienced workforce back at their jobs, filling critical aerospace orders for our military.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashana, 1996** *September 6, 1996*

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Rosh Hashana in this season of redemption and renewal.

On this holy occasion, the resonant sound of the shofar summons Jews around the world to remember and reflect upon the triumphs and tragedies of the previous year. This call, celebrating the year 5757, asks all of us, Jews and non-Jews alike, to reassess and appraise our lives and to seek deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us. During this time of introspection,

Jews pray for a sweet new year, symbolized by dipping bread and fruit in honey.

In this age of possibility and promise, let all who celebrate this holiday work to strengthen the bonds that tie person to person, neighbor to neighbor, and community to community. As we continue our efforts to broaden and strengthen the fragile Middle East peace, let us pray for a brighter world for our children.

Best wishes for a joyous Rosh Hashana and for a healthy and peaceful new year.

**Bill Clinton**

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **The President's Radio Address**

*September 7, 1996*

Good morning. Let me begin by saying our thoughts and prayers are with those in the Southeastern part of our Nation who have been affected by Hurricane Fran. Our FEMA Director, James Lee Witt, and other officials from our administration are in the region, and we'll do everything we can to help the people build back from this terrible storm.

This week our Nation's Armed Forces once again have shown their extraordinary skill and strength, this time in a critical mission in Iraq. I ordered our military to take strong action after Saddam Hussein, in the face of clear warnings from the international community, attacked and seized the Kurdish controlled city of Irbil in northern Iraq. Our missile strikes against Saddam's air defense sites in southern Iraq made it possible for us to expand the no-fly zone that has been in place over southern Iraq, the staging ground for the Kuwait invasion in 1990, and the area where Saddam massed his troops and menaced Kuwait again in 1994.

We have denied Saddam control of the skies from the suburbs of Baghdad to the Kuwaiti border. Our action has reduced his ability to strike out against his neighbors and increased our ability to prevent future acts of violence and aggression. As a result of our efforts, Saddam is now strategically worse off than he was before he crossed the lines imposed by the international community.

Once more, we have seen that at home and abroad our service men and women go the extra mile for us. And we must go the extra mile for them. Today I am announcing that I intend to sign the defense authorization bill for 1997 now before the Congress. This bill makes good on our pledge to give our Armed Forces the finest equipment there is so that they have the technological edge to prevail on the battlefields of tomorrow. It also carries forward our commitment to give our troops the quality of life they deserve by funding family and troop housing improvements that we want and by providing a raise of 3 percent, nearly one percent beyond what the law automatically provides now.

The dangers our troops face every day underscore the importance of continuing our work against the forces of destruction. In particular, we must redouble our efforts to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons such as those that Iraq and other rogue nations have developed. This effort has taken on new urgency now that terrorists can also turn to chemical weapons, whose terrible impact we saw in the sarin gas attack last year in the Tokyo subway.

In the week to come, the Senate faces an historic opportunity to take chemical weapons out of military arsenals and help keep them out of the hands of terrorists. The Senate will vote on ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention. By voting for this treaty, the Senate can help to banish poison gas from the Earth and make America's citizens and soldiers much more secure.

The convention requires all who sign it to destroy their chemical weapons stockpiles and to forswear ever developing, producing, or acquiring chemical weapons. It will dramatically reduce the chance of American troops facing such weapons on the battlefield, which is why our military leaders strongly support the treaty. What's more, the treaty provides a strong system of verification, including inspections of suspicious facilities on short notice.

I ask the leaders of both parties in Congress to pull together and pass this treaty. It will make life tougher for rogue states like Iraq. Those few nations that refuse to sign